

References

- DICKSON, J.H. 1991 *Wild Flowers of Glasgow*. Aberdeen.
 STACE, C.A. 1991 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge.

(In his *Flora of the Clyde Area* (1933) J.R. Lee mentions an earlier Renfrewshire record from near Gourrock. Compiler.)

Zoological

Return of Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.) to the Kilpatrick Hills J. MITCHELL

Twice before in this century Red Deer have spread south from highland Loch Lomondside to reach the Kilpatrick Hills just north of Glasgow. On these occasions the increase in deer numbers was attributed to the temporary cessation of culling due to the absence of gamekeepers and sportsmen during two world wars. In both cases all Red Deer to the south of Loch Lomond were shot-out once post-war control and sporting activities were resumed (*A Natural History of Loch Lomond*, 1974). The beginning of a third potential colonisation of the Kilpatrick Hills by Red Deer was first noted by Forest Enterprise ranger A. Fairweather in Auchineden Plantation in 1990. This was followed by further sightings in Merkins and Gartachorrans Plantations in 1992 and 1993 respectively.

Both public and private afforestation has been extensively carried out on the Kilpatrick Hills and surrounds since the mid-1960s, and additional plantings are proposed. With the substantial increase in woodland cover now available to the Red Deer there seems a much better chance that, despite some local culling being carried out, this time they will become permanently established in the Kilpatrick Hills area.

Kingfisher near Bothwell Castle MARGARET M.H. LYTH.

While walking by the bank of the River Clyde near Bothwell Castle, Uddingston, on the afternoon of 25 August 1994, I observed a Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*). The bird flew into thick vegetation on the river bank not far from where I was standing.

I last saw a Kingfisher in this vicinity on 7 November 1977 (Lyth, 1978; *Glasg. Nat.* 19: 425) despite visiting the area regularly during the past seventeen years in the hope of seeing a Kingfisher again.

The bird was at a spot about half a mile further downstream than that of the 1977 sighting and it was a delight to see on a sunny afternoon.

Fishing success rate of Otters in Argyll

M. HANCOX

The decline of Otter populations (*Lutra lutra*) over much of Britain and Europe has been well documented. A gradual recovery is now under way, aided by reintroduction programmes, but it is a sad reflection that even such experienced naturalists as H.G. Hurrell only saw a handful of otters in a life time of Devon observation. By contrast, the western and northern coasts of Scotland have seemingly never suffered this decline, and observations on the ecology, distribution and behaviour of otters is remarkably easy in certain areas (Hancox, 1987; *Scott. Nat.* 99: 111-118).

One otter was observed near Drimnin, Morvern, Argyll in May 1994 for some eight minutes. After crossing the road, the otter fished off the shallow rocky coast for five or six minutes. Five dives were seen, and two of these each produced a 3 - 4 inch fish which was consumed while still "at sea" (larger fish are taken ashore for consumption). Clearly, otters can, by concentrating on optimal shallows, often where the turn of the tide has stirred up the fish and made them more vulnerable to predation, acquire a daily intake of fish prey adequate for their needs with perhaps as little as a half hour's fishing. Seasonal factors may make feeding more difficult and lengthy, but it is small wonder that otters are thriving in Argyll and can afford time for play and other leisure activities.

Pill Woodlice records from south-west Scotland

A.McG. STIRLING

Mr J. McCleary, Newton Stewart, has confirmed the following records of woodlice belonging to the genus *Armadillidium* :-